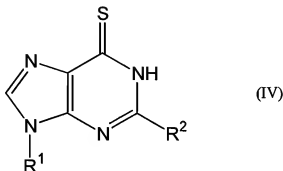
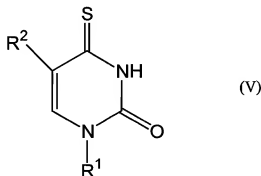


Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A method for preparing a thionucleoside-S-nitrosyl derivative, which comprises reacting a thionucleoside of the following Formula (IV):



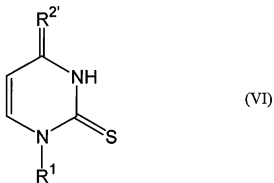
{wherein R¹ represents ribose, 2-deoxyribose or a derivative of either, and R² represents a hydrogen atom, an amino group, a hydroxyl group, a halogen atom, a R³-oxy group or a R³-amino group, (wherein R³ represents an optionally substituted C₁₋₁₅ alkyl group or an optionally substituted C₁₋₁₅ acyl group)} with a nitrosyl compound.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn): A method for preparing a thionucleoside-S-nitrosyl derivative, which comprises reacting a thionucleoside of the following Formula (V):



[wherein R^1 represents ribose, 2-deoxyribose or a derivative of either, and R^2 represents a hydrogen atom, an amino group, a hydroxyl group, a halogen atom, a R^3 -oxy group or a R^3 -amino group (wherein R^3 represents an optionally substituted C_{1-15} alkyl group or an optionally substituted C_{1-15} acyl group)] with a nitrosyl compound.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn): A method for preparing a thionucleoside-S-nitrosyl derivative, which comprises reacting a thionucleoside of the following Formula (VI):



(wherein R^1 represents ribose, 2-deoxyribose or a derivative of either, and $R^{2'}$ represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or an imino group) with a nitrosyl compound.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): An oligonucleic acid comprising the derivative according to claim 1 or a salt thereof.

Claim 8 (Original): The oligonucleic acid according to claim 7, which has a length of at least 12 bases.

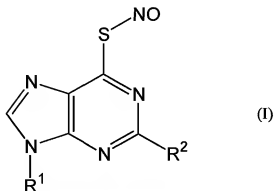
Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A method for transferring a nitrosyl group, which comprises reacting the oligonucleic acid according to claim 7 with its complementary strand to transfer the nitrosyl group contained in the oligonucleic acid to a corresponding base in its complementary strand.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A method for mutagenesis of a nucleotide sequence, which comprises reacting the oligonucleic acid according to claim 7 with its complementary strand, and treating the resulting reaction product under acidic conditions.

Claim 11 (Original): The method according to claim 10, wherein the nucleotide sequence is a nucleotide sequence corresponding to the derivative in the oligonucleic acid.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 10, wherein the mutagenesis generates a mutation to uracil.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A mutagenic agent for a nucleotide sequence, which comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of a thionucleoside-S-nitrosyl derivative of the following Formula (I) or a salt thereof:



a thionucleoside-S-nitrosyl derivative of the following Formula (II) or a salt thereof:



a thionucleoside-S-nitrosyl derivative of the following Formula (III) or a salt thereof:

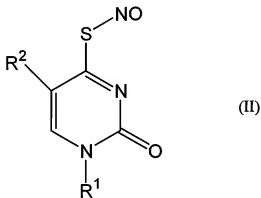


an oligonucleic acid comprising the derivative according to formula I; an oligonucleic acid comprising the derivative according to formula II; and an oligonucleic acid comprising the derivative according to formula III.

R1N1C=NC2=C1N=CN(C2)SNO (I)

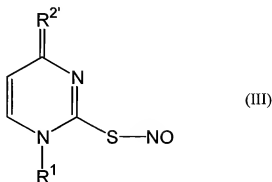
{wherein R^1 represents ribose, 2-deoxyribose or a derivative of either, and R^2 represents a hydrogen atom, an amino group, a hydroxyl group, a halogen atom, a R^3 -oxy group or a R^3 -amino group {wherein R^3 represents an optionally substituted C_{1-15} alkyl group or an optionally substituted C_{1-15} acyl group}};

a thionucleoside-S-nitrosyl derivative of the following Formula (II) or a salt thereof:



{wherein R^1 represents ribose, 2-deoxyribose or a derivative of either, and R^2 represents a hydrogen atom, an amino group, a hydroxyl group, a halogen atom, a R^3 -oxy group or a R^3 -amino group {wherein R^3 represents an optionally substituted C_{1-15} alkyl group or an optionally substituted C_{1-15} acyl group}};

a thionucleoside-S-nitrosyl derivative of the following Formula (III) or a salt thereof:



(wherein R¹ represents ribose, 2-deoxyribose or a derivative of either, and R^{2'} represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or an imino group);
an oligonucleic acid comprising the derivative according to formula I; an oligonucleic acid comprising the derivative according to formula II; and an oligonucleic acid comprising the derivative according to formula III.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): An oligonucleic acid comprising the derivative according to claim 2 or a salt thereof.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): An oligonucleic acid comprising the derivative according to claim 3 or a salt thereof.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): The oligonucleic acid according to claim 15, which has a length of at least 12 bases.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): The oligonucleic acid according to claim 16, which has a length of at least 12 bases

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): A method for transferring a nitrosyl group, which comprises reacting the oligonucleic acid according to claim 15 with its complementary strand to transfer the nitrosyl group contained in the oligonucleic acid to a corresponding base in its complementary strand.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): A method for transferring a nitrosyl group, which comprises reacting the oligonucleic acid according to claim 16 with its complementary strand to transfer the nitrosyl group contained in the oligonucleic acid to a corresponding base in its complementary strand.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn): A method for mutagenesis of a nucleotide sequence, which comprises reacting the oligonucleic acid according to claim 15 with its complementary strand, and treating the resulting reaction product under acidic conditions.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn): A method for mutagenesis of a nucleotide sequence, which comprises reacting the oligonucleic acid according to claim 16 with its complementary strand, and treating the resulting reaction product under acidic conditions.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 21, wherein the nucleotide sequence is a nucleotide sequence corresponding to the derivative in the oligonucleic acid.

Claim 24 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 22, wherein the nucleotide sequence is a nucleotide sequence corresponding to the derivative in the oligonucleic acid

Claim 25 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 23, wherein the mutagenesis generates a mutation to uracil.

Claim 26 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 24, wherein the mutagenesis generates a mutation to uracil.